

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claim 17 has been amended. Claim 23 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 17-22 and 24-26 are pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 17, 21 and 22 were rejected as being anticipated. Claim 17 has been amended to include allowable subject matter as indicated by the Office Action. Claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 17, 21 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 18-20 and 24 were rejected as being unpatentable. Claim 17 has been amended to include allowable subject matter as indicated by the Office Action. Claims 18-20 and 24 depend from claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 18-20 and 24 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

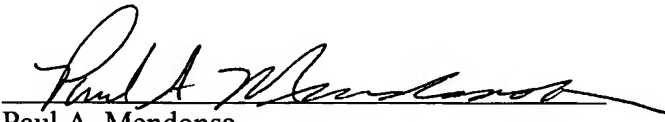
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 17-22 and 24-26 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would expedite the examination of the present

application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit

Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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